

ANIME UPDATE!

Idol Land Anime Goods Tsushin Hanbai's Bi-monthly Newsletter

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Editor's Department

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu!

By ROBERT MENDOZA

A lot has happened in the last few months. People have already started to send in their orders while still more people are joining every day. The 1991 calendars, as well as other new merchandise have arrived. Also expect the next newsletter in just a few weeks from now. This issue, as I'm sure you've noticed, we're highlighting Rumiko Takahashi's Ranma 1/2. In the months to come I have planned articles on Orange Road, Nadia and the Secret of Blue Water, A.D. Police, Dragonball, and authors Adachi Mitsuru and Hayao Miyazaki. Hope you had a happy holiday season.

Letters Department

Yubinbutsu

We're still waiting for your comments and letters. This newsletter is written for you the reader. We would like to know how we're doing and what we should do in the future to improve the newsletter. Again the address to reach us at is:

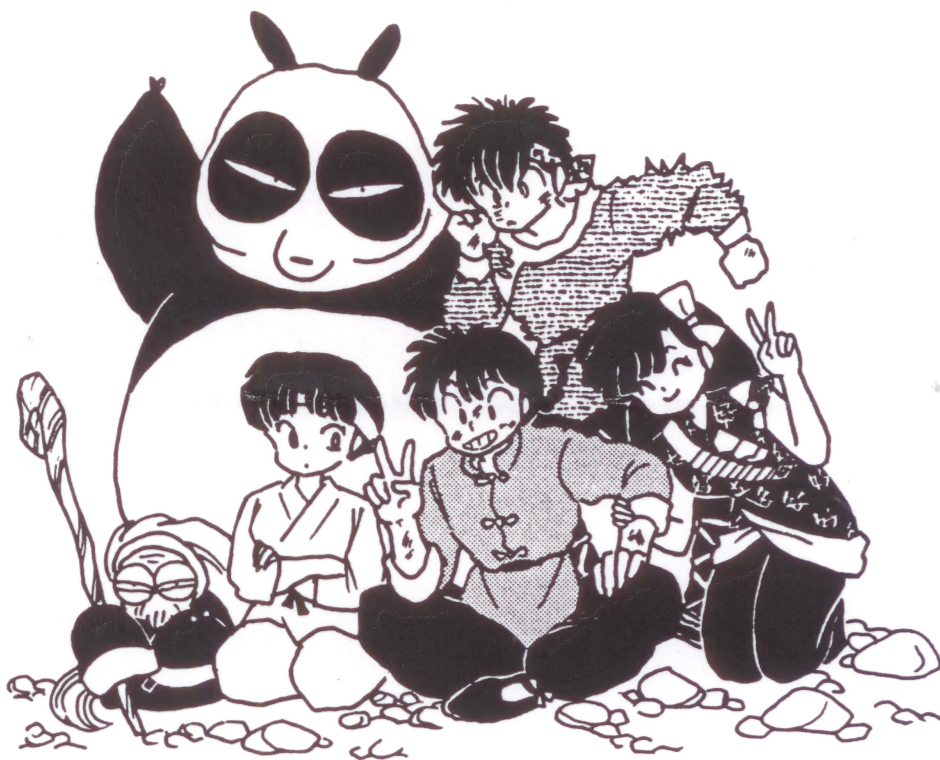
Anime Update!
107 North Lincoln Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754

New Items Department

1991 Calendars

The 1991 calendars are here! We have ordered the following titles for you to select from. Our stock is limited so please call us at (818) 573-5345 to reserve yours today.

- Anpan Man
- Dragonball Z
- Dream Hunter Lem
- Fujiko Fujio Collection
(Creator of Doraemon)
- Ginga Eiyu Densetsu e Kusukaizer
- Kiki's Delivery Service
- Laputa
- My Neighbor Totoro
- Nadia and the Secret of Blue Water
- Nausicaä and the Valley of the Wind



Part of the cast of Ranma 1/2 includes (from left to right): Genma, Ryoga, Cologne, Akane, Ranma, and Ukiyo.

- Patlabor
- Ranma 1/2
- S.D. Gundam
- Urusei Yatsura
- Ultraman

Synopsis Department

Ranma 1/2 Cast

By ERIC ALEGADO

Introduction by ROBERT MENDOZA

Since the late seventies Rumiko Takahashi has been one of the most popular comic authors in Japan. Her first hit was Urusei Yatsura that has captured the hearts of people across the world. Her other works also have found their way into popularity including: Maison Ikkoku, One Pound Gospel, and a vast collection of short stories including Laughing Target and Super Gal. Her latest hit is Ranma 1/2 (in Japanese 1/2 is pronounced "nibun no ichi"). It is about the life of a young martial artist named Ranma Saotome. The following article talks about the various cast of characters that inhabit the world of Ranma 1/2.

Ranma Saotome- The only son of Genma Saotome, he is very skilled at martial arts, having been trained nearly all his life. He can be quite helpful and understanding, but this is strained to the limit when dealing with either his father or Akane. Personal relationships are hardly Ranma's only problem. As a result of being immersed in the magical "Pools of Sorrow" (Juusenkyo) in China, Ranma becomes a girl when hit by cold water, and reverts to normal when hit by warm water. Ranma is also engaged to both Akane Tendo and Ukiyo Kuonji, because of his self-serving father. In fact, Ranma was also permanently traumatized by his father in order for him to learn "Neko Ken" or Cat Fighting technique, causing him to either run in fear of any cats he may see, or revert to the mentality of a cat. Which incidentally is the only time Neko Ken even works for Ranma.

Akane Tendo- Youngest of Soun Tendo's three daughters, Akane is rather tomboyish and constantly works out in the family dojo (training hall). She was

engaged to Ranma because she was the closest in age. Akane is usually pretty nice, but most of the time puts off any romantic advances by guys rather violently. Akane is fairly well suited to Ranma's personality, but she lacks understanding and is horrible at "girlish" things, such as cooking. Akane also had a childhood crush on the local doctor (Doctor Tofu) but has the makings of a relationship with Ryoga Hibiki who idolizes her and is also her pet pig, P-chan (yet another victim of the pools.)

Ryoga Hibiki- Ranma's childhood neighbor, and rival in junior high school, Ryoga has always been the loser in their confrontations. A master of thrown weapons, he is rarely seen without his deadly umbrella and bandannas. Ryoga is very persistent, has no sense of direction, and also has an extremely poor memory. Ranma as a girl has pretended (successfully, too) to be both his younger sister and fiancée on two separate occasions. Ryoga is also another person cursed by the pools, primarily because of Ranma, who knocked him into one while chasing his father. Whenever he is wet, he becomes a small black pig, but Akane has taken a liking to him as a pet pig, and calls him "P-chan," so it's not all that bad. He has a budding romance with Akane, although she isn't aware of his being P-chan.

Shampoo-One of the best fighters in a Chinese village of female warriors called the Jyoketsuzoku, Shampoo first met and was defeated by the female Ranma. She did not take her first defeat lightly, and gave her what is tantamount to a "kiss of death." Shampoo hunted the female Ranma down. Meanwhile meeting and falling for the male Ranma. He eventually got tired of the situation and showed her the secret of his dual nature, only to find out she still is in love with him. This isn't without its problems, because Shampoo's grandmother wants her to marry Ranma, so put her childhood suitor Mousse (who she doesn't like at all) out of the running. Incidentally, when she returned to China in disgrace after not killing Ranma, she bought her grandmother and fell in a pool that turned her into a cat, which would ordinarily not be a problem except for Ranma's fear of cats. Shampoo also speaks Chinese ("Ni Hao"; "Wo Ai Ni"; etc.) from time to time.

Genma Saotome- Ranma's father was a fellow 'disciple' (with Soun Tendo) of the martial arts master (and perverted crook) Iapposai, and they both agreed to have their children marry to cement their close

friendship. Genma is also a coward and a crook much like his former master, and will do anything to gain an advantage or worm out of an agreement. Genma's curse (from the "Pools of Sorrow") is that he becomes a panda when immersed in water.

Soun Tendo- Father of Kasumi, Nabiki, and Akane Tendo. Soun Tendo runs a dojo and houses the Saotome's until the time that Ranma and Akane are married. (this could take a while.) Soun Tendo also holds Ranma to his father's agreement that he has to marry Akane. A fact he constantly reminds Ranma of, such as when he is with other girls.

Happosai- Also called "Happi" is an obnoxious lecherous old man who also happens to be a martial artist master and indulger in several other vices. When Happi was less of a womanizer in his youth, it has been hinted that he may have married Shampoo's grandmother, Cologne. However, his overactive libido drove her away, and forced him into the life of a fugitive and a thief. Happi preoccupies himself with chasing young girls, making him one of the least popular characters. Happosai also has a large collection of women's undergarments, and his lechery seems to be the primary reason for his longevity, but keeping him away from women too long is worse than kryptonite to Superman. He was the teacher of both Soun Tendo and Genma Saotome, but he ill-used his skills earning a living at others' expense. Both Mr. Tendo and Mr. Saotome got fed up with his ruthless treatment of them as accomplices in his crimes, so they got him stone drunk and trapped him in a cave with food, hopefully forever. Unfortunately, fate took a hand in freeing him, and now his former two students, plan his reentrainment, while pretending to be still on his good side.

Cologne- The real name of Shampoo's great-grandmother. Being one of the oldest characters in the cast, she is perhaps the most powerful. She is absolutely committed to having Ranma marry Shampoo, despite his betrothal to other girls. She is a master of hitting "tsubo", or power points on an opponent. (She once 'locked' Ranma in female-form by hitting one of these points, in order to force his agreement to marry Shampoo in order to be returned to normal.) Cologne was a rare beauty in her youth, a fact few can believe by looking at her now. Cologne also was once very close to Happosai in her youth, but they seem to be far from the best of friends now. She

Anime Song Department

Omoide ga Ippai

From Ranma 1/2

Compiled by ERIC ALEGADO

Shigyo beeru (bell)

Ki ni shinagara

Kaketekuru kurasumeito
(classmate)

Koe kakeru...Ne.."Ohayo!"

Natsukusa ga kaoru hodo

Hohoemi de hajimaru asa

Itsumo to onnaji dakedo

Sarigenai shunkansae

Watashi no takaramono

Kokoro no arubamu (album)

ni...Hatte aru

Wasurenai (Kono sora o)

Wasurenai (Kono yume o)

Anata to ima wakeau

Yasashii kisetsu

Kanashikute (Yuretahi mo)

Ureshikute (Naita hi mo)

Taisetsu na omoide na no

Hi ga ataru watari roo ga

Tomodachi ni uchi aketa ne

Suteki na hito...demo "Naisho"

Kirisugita kami o kuyami

Nemurenai yori mo atta

Itsuka wa waraeru kashira

Sazanami ga sarau yo

ni...Hakanaku kietakoi

Itami ga kakokei ni kawatte mo

Wasurenai (Ano niji o)...Wasurenai

(Ano ai o)

So otona ni natte

mo...Nakushitakunai

Hashaideta (Ima datte)

Mabushisa wa owaranai no

Wasurenai (Kono sora o)

Wasurenai (Kono yume o)

Anata to ima wakeau

Yasashii kisetsu

Kanashikute (Yuretahi mo)

Ureshikute (Naita hi mo)

Taisetsu na omoide na no

always calls Ranma "Muko-dono" which is like son-in-law, even when he's a girl.

Mousse- Shampoo's childhood playmate and would-be suitor. Mousse is handsome

enough to turn most girl's heads, but he is so near-sighted he has to wear unsightly and thick eyeglasses. He is a master of the martial arts (based on birds) and probably as good as Ranma. He also uses all forms of weapons and items that mimic the talons and attack styles of birds. However, like all the others, he too accidentally fell into the Pools of Sorrow and was changed into a duck. Once in an attempt to venge himself on Ranma, he tried to turn Akane into a duck using the pool's water.

Ukiyo Kuonji- An expert okonomiyaki chef, and Ranma's one of fiancees. Ukiyo and her father ran a okonomiyaki stand near where Ranma spent his childhood. Ukiyo's father liked Ranma, and he made a deal with Mr. Saotome, so that Ukiyo would be provided for until they were married, he gave the stand to Genma, providing he raised Ukiyo. Things didn't turn out that way, however. Genma took the stand, but left Ukiyo to grow up plotting her revenge. Ukiyo eventually tracked the Saotomes' down, but Ranma and she have settled their differences. Ukiyo usually dresses as a boy (and is often mistaken for one) and always keeps the Japanese equivalent of a giant okonomiyaki spatula on her person at all times. Ukiyo also has a unique speech pattern, and she usually ends her sentences with "-ya" endings, much like Lum's "-cha" endings, which don't really mean anything.

Tsubasa Kurenai- A "girl" that has a crush on Ukiyo, she challenges the female Ranma to a duel for her, even after being shown that Ukiyo is a girl. She is a master of disguise, and yells "totsugeki!" (charge!) whenever she sees the target of her affections. She inexplicably hates boys, and the reason for this eventually becomes obvious. She actually is one herself.

Tatewaki Kuno- A second year high school student, Kuno uses his wealth and higher (imagined) status to lord over his fellow schoolmates. One of his only faults is his honorable mentality, something several of the other characters take advantage of. Kuno always carries a bokken (wooden sword) and thoroughly hates the male Ranma. Unfortunately, he has a soft spot for both the female Ranma and Akane Tendo, and would go to extremes to impress them, and is often in a quandary if forced to choose between them.

Kodachi Kuno- "Kurobara" Kuno ("Black Rose" Kuno) is Tatewaki's unstable

younger sister. She is very beautiful, but is somewhat of a bully towards other girls as well as being a sore loser. Her martial arts style is loosely based on rhythmic gymnastics, and she often uses black roses (usually drugged with sleeping or paralytic poison) as a 'calling card'. She was soundly defeated by the female Ranma in a public tournament at her school and harbors a grudge against her, but she is constantly trying to get the male Ranma in a, ahem, compromising situation. Kodachi is also given to laugh maniacally at times.

Sasuke- The Kuno's ninja retainer. Sasuke has no motivation save to serve the Kunos'. Sasuke is a pain to deal with from Ranma's point of view, but Sasuke actually wants to be helpful, because he has a low opinion of himself, sort of like the perfect servant (...or a dog...) Sasuke is often the target of both Kuno siblings because his loyalty extends to playing referee in their quarrels. Sasuke is usually dressed in a brown ninja outfit, and is short with prominent buck teeth.

Nabiki Tendo- The middle Tendo girl, Nabiki is a schemer. She can always (at least in her few appearances) turn a situation to her (monetary) advantage. Aside from being rather materialistic, Nabiki really hasn't been fleshed out as a

character.

Kasumi Tendo- The oldest Tendo girl, Kasumi is perhaps the most 'normal' of the entire cast. She is very traditional in Japanese manner, and is a very good cook and housekeeper. She is very pretty, and seems to be fond of Dr. Tofu, the neighborhood acupressurist, although neither of them will admit it.

Doctor Tofu- Although he is badly nearsighted, Dr. Tofu is quite a skilled acupressurist, however, he is secretly (in that everybody knows but him) in love with Kasumi Tendo, and he loses all professionalism and composure when she's around. Dr. Tofu is also unable to tell her his feelings and instead gives shifts his affections to his lab skeleton, Betty.

Azusa Shiratori- The female half of the ice skating "Golden Pair" of Gakuen High School. She is very cute, and has childish fixations on cute things as well. She once took P-chan as her own, calling him Charlotte. Needless to say, this forced Ranma and Akane to try to win him back under her terms- namely beat the famous "Golden Pair" at ice skating.

Mikado Sanzenin- Azusa's handsome partner, Mikado is somewhat of a ladies' man, however, unfortunately, he knows it.



Genma and Ranma stand on top of a cliff looking across a valley.

